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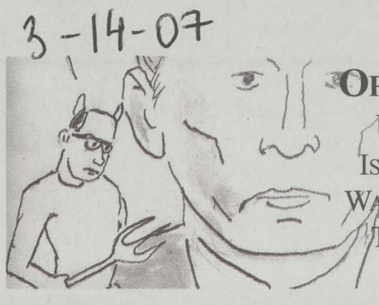

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 4 | MARCH 14, 2007 | IT'S *YOUR* PAPER

Bridging the Gap with MTA

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

In an effort to collaborate with local employers to give students a full-time occupation, the Valley College Job Center is working with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to train future bus operators through the Bridge Program.

The Bridge Program is a six-week course designed to train bus operators and was initiated to fill the MTA's shortage of drivers. Operators need to have a class B driver's license and pass an exam administered by the MTA, which has very high failure rates.

"We had an immediate need to bring in as many people as we could as quickly as we could to fill 300 vacancies," said Don Ott, executive for the office of administration for MTA. "We've gotten that number down."

The service is designed for adults who are either unemployed or underemployed.

Successful thus far, the program has hired 198 of the 233 individuals that started training and 219 that completed it. That translates to a 70 percent success rate of people who go through the course being hired, with an additional 15 percent still in the hiring process.

The program has been so successful that the Job Training Center received the "Exemplary Innovation Award" from the State Chancellor's Office on Feb. 27.

Since the program began in August of 2006, Valley's Director of Job Training Lennie Ciufo has worked to customize the process and prepare students to take the test for MTA.

According to Ciufo, one of the key reasons the training has been so successful is that the college has an arrangement with the Department of Motor Vehicles where they actually come into the classroom to administer the test.

"It's helped us com-

see *'MTA'* page 4

MAKING TRACKS

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

SPEED OF LIGHT- The late afternoon sun serves as a backdrop for 3,000 meter runners at a track meet at Citrus College. The Monarch's LoCurto Casey finished second with a personal record of 9:17.93. For more sports coverage visit pg. 6.

Valley Doc Points out Lost Activism

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students will get the chance to view the completion of a very important journey on Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m. with the screening of the Valley-made documentary "PatriotS Act...PEACE PRESS: the People's Printing Collective."

The film is produced, written and directed by media arts Professor Joseph A. Daccurso and showcases the art and ideas of the "Peace Press," a radical collective of L.A. activists and artists who gave a new voice to counter-culture from 1967 to 1987 in the form of independent press. Their message of free speech and being actively involved in the government is as relevant today as it ever was, according to Daccurso.

"This isn't about me," said the professor. "It is about the film and the students who worked on it."

Daccurso and his media arts students went through 28 hours of interviews, 22 hours of art and more than 3,000 edits to come to the films final cut of 95 minutes. The documentary was made over five semesters and demanded just about every minute of spare time the students had when not in class or at work. In the end the four very dedicated media arts students saw their vision hit the big screen.

Anika Marinelli, Don Lewis II, Josephine Dell'Anno and Rachel Tucker were the team that helped bring the documentary to life.

"We stuck with it for along time," said Lewis, the sound editor/cinematographer. "It was supposed to be roughly six months but it ended up much longer. It was exhausting but we are glad how it turned out."

The process of research opened a time capsule into the Valley of the 60s where protests and activism were daily events on campus.

"Where is that now?" asked Tucker, a cinematographer/picture editor when she looked back on the history of activism at Valley. "I hope this movie brings back that emphasis."

But things were often times far from peaceful with

see *'Press'* page 4

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

FRUITS OF LABOR - The Orange Line, named after the citrus trees that blanketed the San Fernando Valley, has met ridership expectations within the first few months of operation.

Piracy Penalties Surprise Schools

BY JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has issued 400 pre-litigation settlement letters to 13 different universities indicating use of illegal downloading on campus. The letter informs the school of the copyright infringement and requests that they be forwarded to the network user, be it student or staff.

Responsible for issuing gold, platinum, multi-platinum and diamond sales awards, the RIAA is a trade group that represents the United States recording industry. Its mission is to foster a business that supports their member creative and financial vitality. Comprising about 90 percent of the recordings sold or produced in the United States, the RIAA tries to protect artists' First Amendment rights through constant monitoring of state and federal laws regulations and policies.

"We have transformed how we do business, and online music

see *'RIAA'* page 4

Aid Available for Tuition Costs

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Money and the cost of education is an extremely important topic to almost every college student. The combination of tuition fees, high book prices, school supplies and a bevy of other expenses creates a world full of counting coins and tight budgets.

For Valley College students struggling to maintain a decent living while still going to school, relief comes in the form of Valley's financial aid program.

"The program has been very helpful," said biology major Raven Higginbotham. "I came here because I needed help in buying books and paying for classes."

Using funds from state and federal resources, the program allows all students the opportunity to apply for and possibly receive a variety of financial assistance during their college career. The aid given out can be the most critical factor in many students decision to stay in school, particularly for those with lower incomes.

"I've met many students who have told me that if it hadn't been for financial aid, they couldn't have gone to college because their family just couldn't afford it," said Financial Aid Director Barbara Ralston. "Financial aid provides the opportunity to make a college education possible for eligible students so they can achieve their dreams [and] goals."

Citing the challenges students face by trying to juggle work, family and school at once, Ralston said she felt financial aid can help students cut their work load and focus more time and energy on their studies.

The two most commons forms of aid available at Valley are the state-funded Board of Governors fee waiver grant and the federal Pell grant. Although more than five other grants and loans exist, according to Ralston, their funds can be limited allocation-wise or have more restrictive eligibility.

The fee waiver grant pays the enrollment fees for qualified students and the Pell grant disburses money to help in educational costs.

The first step in a student's path toward financial aid involves determining whether they're eligible by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The more than 100-question application requires tax and income information, a Personal Identification Number and proof of residency or citi-

see *'FAFSA'* page 4

VALLEY PEOPLE

New PR Rep Peps up Valley Image

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Fong sits behind her desk wearing a sharp, navy colored dress with her sorority letter necklace proudly on display. With a bright smile and energetic mannerisms she appears to be the typical Valley College student, not its new Public Relations Specialist.

The 29-year-old Chinese-American and self-professed "valley girl" has taken on a position that has been vacant since the last PR representative retired about a year ago. Fong comes to Valley with more than seven years of public relations experience, having worked for Pierce College and the Colleges of Extended Learning at California State University (CSU) San Bernardino and CSU Northridge.

"I got into PR by accident in high school," said Fong. "I was asked to handle the publicity for the drama club's plays."

She has high hopes for her time at Valley, and loves the mix of students as well as the quality of teachers.

"My goal is to help increase enrollment," said Fong. "I believe in what Valley has to offer."

Fong's job is to handle media relations, marketing and brand awareness for the school, meaning she is here to spread the gospel of Valley.

The CSUN graduate has been at Valley for only four weeks, her windowless office walls are bare and she has one lonely fake plant on her desk, but she has hit the ground running; she is determined to put the school on the map and is working hard to bring new awareness to the community.

IMA KURODA / VALLEY STAR

IMAGE QUEEN - PR Specialist Jennifer Fong is poised to promote Valley College's programs.

"We are very excited she is here," said Valley President Dr. Tyree Wieder. "She has started with a bang."

Fong is helping with the new accreditation project coming up, all the marketing for the summer and fall semesters and a new Valley Web site.

Her biggest challenges have been learning about the campus and letting everyone know she is here - on top of helping with Valley's growth and development.

"Energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to community college," is how Dr. Wieder describes the new PR specialist. "And passion for public relations, with a great personality."

Fong is ready for the challenges at Valley and is looking forward to a strong relationship with both faculty and students.

"I want students to know I am here to help Valley grow in any way I can to benefit the college," she said.

College Faces Accreditation Process, Ensuring AA Degrees

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

In spring 2005, Valley College started conducting a self-study of the campus to see what the college can improve upon. Two years later, that process is coming to a close as an accreditation team will visit Valley March 19-22, 2007 to reevaluate the school's status as an accredited community college.

The status is very important to schools because it affects whether they will be able to serve their students. If a college does not qualify, it will not be able to legally offer an associate degree.

"It's better to be accredited than not to be accredited," said Faculty Accreditation Chair Deborah Kaye. "Colleges … go through this process [so that] their students get financial aid and the credits [they] earned will transfer to other institutions that they might want to attend."

The team is representing the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges that reviews a community college's status as an accredited organization every six years. In general the panel tries to uncover points that the school can improve upon.

Although it is rare, the team can revoke a college's accreditation. Compton College recently lost its status because of numerous problems and it was put under the guidance of El Camino College.

Kaye is very confident that Valley will have its status renewed.

During the three-day visit, the team of 11 faculty members from other community colleges will tour the campus, attend meetings and talk to individuals.

"When I've been on visits, people just walk around and if you're on the Student Services [committee], you stop and ask a student, 'What do you like about the campus?' [and] 'What are you studying?'" said Valley President Tyree Wieder, who has been in accreditation groups for other schools. "They just want to get a feel for the campus."

There will also be three events that the students can participate in. Two will be open forums where people can meet the members and an exit session where the team will give a summary of its findings for the campus. All of the events will take place in the Fireside room in the Campus Center building.

"Students are the ones that need to be giving the suggestions," said former student Igor Kagan. "Because they're the ones that know directly how the programs can improve."

Kagan was a member of Valley's self-study to determine what the college can improve upon.

In order to prepare for the visit, Valley has done a self-study of the campus and its programs to see what the college can improve upon and make recommendations to the visiting team.

Ten separate committees made up of faculty members and a few students took part in the self-study to investigate different aspects of the campus and found elements that should be enhanced.

"It was a very good process," said Kaye. "[It gave] everybody a chance to get together and talk, and meet, and discuss, and come up with ideas. I think a lot of really good ideas came from those meetings."

CAMPUS CRIME

Crime, no Punishment

BY KHARA HUBERMAN
COPY EDITOR

Vehicle Vandalism
A student's vehicle was vandalized in Valley College's parking lot E, located off Hatteras Street. The crime took place Tuesday March 6 between 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. The 1998 black four-door Cabrio Volkswagon was reported scratched.

Burglary from Vehicle
A student's parking permit was stolen from a vehicle Tuesday March 6 between 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. in parking lot A located across from the engineering building. The incident was reported Wednesday March 7 and had no suspects or witnesses. The parking permit has yet to make a comeback.

Burglary from Vehicle
A student's radio face plate and CD's worth around $400 were stolen from his/her 1991 green two-door Toyota Tercel Thursday March 8 between 9:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. The theft happened in parking lot A where no suspects or witnesses were seen. The property has not yet been recovered.

Petty Theft
The wallet of a Valley student was stolen in the Learning Center Thursday March 8 between 11-11:20 a.m. The crime was reported 11 a.m. Friday with no suspects or witnesses available. The wallet has not been recovered.

Student/Staff Disturbance
A disturbance between custodial member and a student occurred in the Behavioral Science building. The incident happened Tuesday Feb. 27 at 8 a.m. and was reported seven days later at 4:29 p.m. No further information has been given.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

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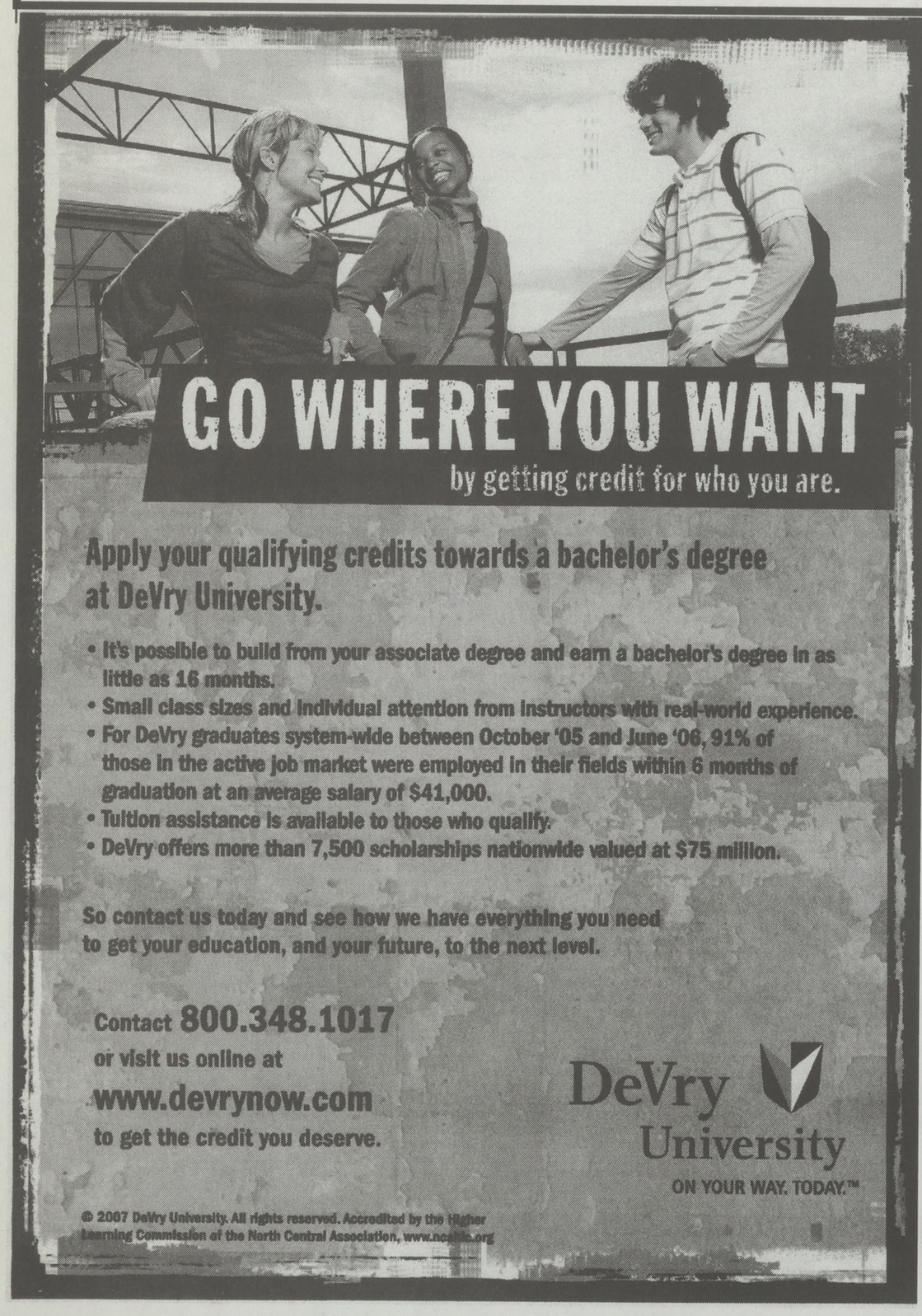

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OPINION

AN OPINION

U.S.-Iran Peace Crucial

BY ANDY FEHER
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Don't look now, but the Bush administration has done an about-face on Iran. Whether it's to appease a Democratic Congress or a realization that his legacy is in jeopardy, President Bush would be wise to use the recent Baghdad summit as a stepping stone to distance himself from the current policy of containment.

Iran cannot be contained while it supports terrorism, finances Hezbollah and Hamas and apparently aids Shiites in Iraq.

Succinctly put, Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, and Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shiite group refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist and have used violence to achieve their ends.

Since its revolution in 1979, Iran has referred to the U.S. as the "Great Satan," an epithet coined by deceased Ayatollah Khomeini. The present regime, run by the duo of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and figurehead President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, continues to use incendiary rhetoric.

Foolishly, U.S. officials, too, have engaged in the verbal joust by referring to Iran as the "central banker of terror." Childish name-calling will only stall negotiations.

First, Bush should, borrowing the approach used by Ahmadinejad, write a letter appealing to the Iranian people aiming to dismiss the "Great Satan" myth. A Pew Global Attitudes poll in June 2006 found that 48 percent of Americans named Iran as a great danger to world peace, up from 26 percent just three years earlier.

Hence, as first suggested by columnist Fareed Zakaria, Bush should invite young Iranians to study in the U.S.

In addition to putting the mullahs on the defense and pacifying unwarranted American fears, there's no better way to breed the next generation of Iranian moderates than to educate them at top-notch U.S. universities.

Politically, Bush must reach out to Iranian moderates, who value nationalism and pragmatism over Islamism and ideology. One of those moderates is Ali Larijani, head of the Supreme National Security Council, who said, "Normalizing relations is itself beneficial in the long term."

Economically, Iran suffers from the paradox of plenty: countries rich in natural resources, such as Venezuela and Sudan, have slower economic growth than countries without natural resources, such as South Korea and Singapore.

Bush needs to categorically reject preemptive strikes advocated by ideologues

Instead of providing $75 million to Iranian exiles for TV broadcasts into Iran, ending U.S. sanctions and "integrating Iran into the world economy and global society would do far more to accelerate its democratic transition," according to Ray Takeyh of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Those who insist the U.S. cannot extend an olive branch to Iran because of the ideological incongruity between the two countries forget that the U.S. maintained contacts with adversaries through most of the Cold War. President Kennedy set up the "red telephone," ensuring direct communication between the White House and the Kremlin. After 23 years of hostility and secret negotiations, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger brought about a rapprochement with Mao Zedong's China.

Further, Bush needs to categorically reject preemptive strikes advocated by ideologues at the Weekly Standard magazine. Their arguments are prefaced with the phrase "if successful." Even if the strikes were successful, which is nearly impossible due both to the vastness of the country and the strategic placement of reactors underground, it would galvanize Iranian support for a waning Ahmadinejad.

In 1972, when Kissinger asked late Chinese premier Zhou En-Lai about the significance of the French Revolution in 1789, En-Lai responded, "It's too soon to tell." The Iranian Revolution is a mere 28 years old, but it's not too late to shape the outcome.

Peaceful relations should be our principle goal. If the "Great Satan" continues bestowing gifts on ordinary Iranians, the hardliners will struggle to maintain popular support. There's no guarantee of détente just by starting formal diplomatic relations, but Bush would be remiss not to try.

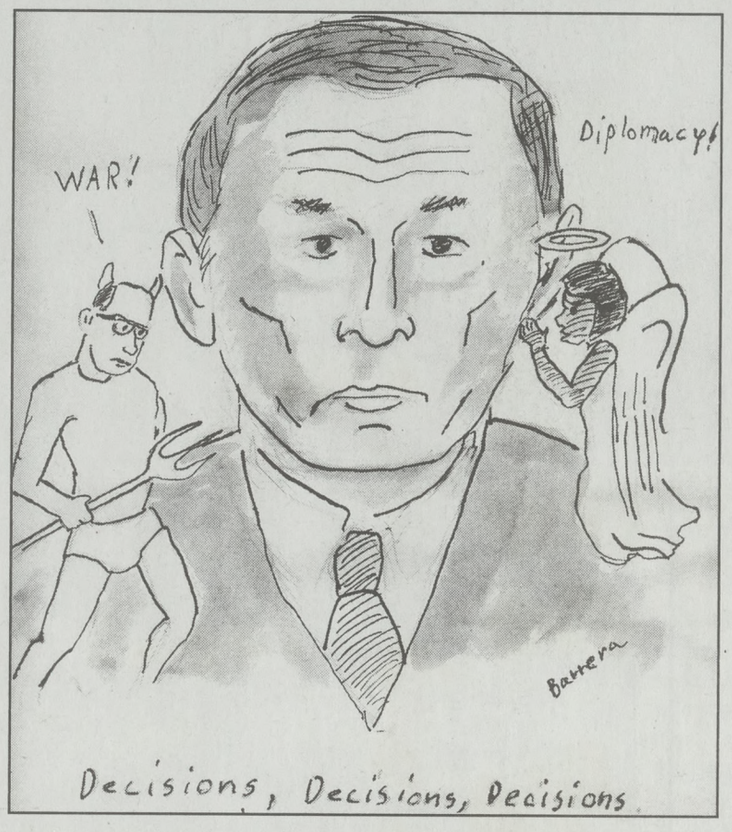


ILLUSTRATION BY RICARDO BARRERA / VALLEY STAR

AN OPINION

My "Ad" Space

BY DIANA QUEZADA
STAFF WRITER

MySpace.com has taken a lot of beatings from the media and is blamed for distracting students' studies to the point that it has been banned from many school campuses. It has also been blamed for being the cause of heinous crimes like child molestation, yet it remains the most-talked-about Web site and is a great place to advertise for free.

MySpace dominates conversations at some point or another while eating at restaurants, walking down school hallways, even cell-phone conversations.

Many have a MySpace profile for fun, but there are thousands who use it as a tool to promote and advertise their business.

The major advantage of having a profile for a business is that it is free. Buying and registering a domain can be as cheap as $10 a month, but the costs of maintenance, upkeep and professional page design can reach into the thousands, making operating a business Web site expensive.

Why do that when MySpace is 100 percent free and users can design pages on their own with an easy step-by-step guide?

Not only is the site free, but there is no limit to how many profiles one can have. Multiple-business owners can put as many profiles as desired and advertise their work globally.

Businesses have gained recognition and even profited by using MySpace as a stepping-stone to networking with established businesses and getting their products in stores.

The Fat Rabbit Farm clothing and design company, which is owned by two Valley College students, is just one of many businesses that have found success after beginning on the networking site.

Whether people want to accept it or not, MySpace has helped many achieve the "American Dream."

Despite the common misconception, MySpace doesn't harbor only negative things. It's a legitimate place to advertise and sell, network and profit.

With more than 100,000,000 registered members and millions of users who visit the site on a daily basis, the world is just a click away for any aspiring talent.

Singers and bands can set up a profile to promote their music by uploading up to four songs to their profile, which are available to download or display for millions.

MySpace is one big networking and advertising circle, and the more "friends" a band has the greater their chance of being heard.

Solo artists and bands have the opportunity to have their music heard around the world without the radio or a need for a record deal. Record deals are even being offered to independent artists with large MySpace followings.

Such is the case for singer, model, and actress Tila Tequila, who appeared on the cover of "Maxim" and "Stuff" magazines after getting recognition for having more than one million "friends." She turned down two record deals and is currently working on a self-published album and also has her own clothing line.

Tequila is one of many who has benefited from the site's exposure. With more than 1.2 million "friends," Christine "Forbidden" Dolce appeared in the October 2006 issue of "Playboy" magazine and was featured on the Tyra Banks show, all because of MySpace.

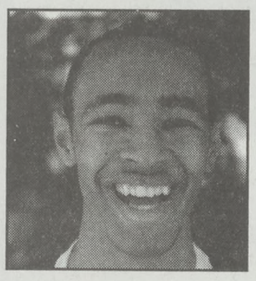
Not enough people give the site the credit it deserves. Too many blame it for a variety of negative occurrences and deem it as being toxic when it has clearly helped many profit, succeed, and gain fame.

Whether people want to accept it or not, MySpace has helped many achieve the "American Dream."

Campus View

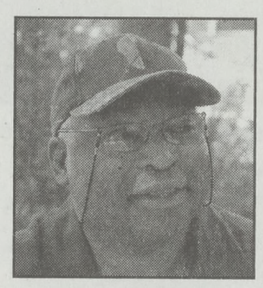
PHOTOS BY RICARDO BARRERA
TEXT BY JESSICA SHAFFER

How Should the United States Handle Iran's Nuclear Threat?



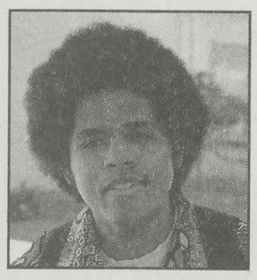
"I think we should get other countries to form a coalition. First talk to the President of Iran see if we can negotiate and then get a coalition of all the other countries in together."

Aaron Datcher
Sociology



"I think the U.S. should still give Iran some chances for dialogue before any action is taken. They should go through the United Nations."

Sami Igodon
Nursing



"For now I say we should look and see what happens. Try not to mess around too much like we did with Iraq. They're not threatening us with anything. Right now we just need to watch.."

Marcel Turner
Engineering

"I don't think we should be involved at all because we have nuclear plans and why are we policing the world from other people having them too."

Noel Holloway
Economics

AN OPINION

RIAA Targets College Students

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

College students across the nation will soon have to look over their shoulders and be wary of lawsuits threatening suspensions, expulsion, and even fines reaching thousands of dollars.

The punishments are harsh, so the offense behind them must be inexcusable. Plagiarism, cheating and assaulting other students or faculty comes to mind.

Unfortunately for anyone who thought they had the whole "what not to do" list down, none of the aforementioned is correct. Cue the drum roll, the billion-dollar answer is: music downloading.

Yes, that's right, music downloading is hoping to make its way up the list of college's biggest taboos. So press pause on your iPods, pay attention and get your compassion ready because everyone's least favorite down and out friend, the Recording Industry Association of America, is pleading its case.

The RIAA controls America's multibillion-dollar recording industry and, if it has its way, will soon be music-loving college students' worst fear.

Beginning in February, the RIAA announced a series of initiatives that seek to crack down on music piracy on college campuses.

Threatening lawsuits and sending letters to schools asking them to assist by "demonstrating the leadership that helps teach students right from wrong" are just some of the steps they've taken so far.

Who could have ever fathomed that the very same organization that has worked hand in hand with record labels to rob artists of millions for decades stood by such noble principles? Then again, hypocrisy has always been its weakness.

A statement on their anti-piracy Web site P2PLawsuits.com says, "The unauthorized uploading or downloading of music is illegal. It is just as wrong as shoplifting from a local record store – and the impact on those who create music and bring it to fans is equally devastating."

Don't be fooled by their propaganda about protecting artists...for the RIAA it's all about the money.

If downloading music is the physical equivalent to shoplifting from a record store, the RIAA must be the landlord who won't fix the plumbing and cares more about money than its tenants' rights.

After years of using unfair contracts that leave artists with minimal returns on their work, some as little as 25 cents for every $10 CD sold while the labels make millions, it's hard to believe they have anything more than their own best interest in mind, let alone those who create the music.

The system supported by the RIAA left musicians and fans with no other option than to play by their rules and created a stranglehold on buying and selling CDs in stores.

Artists and fans then turned to the Internet as an avenue to independently market, buy and sell music without RIAA interference, quickly creating a new force in the industry.

Only after it became clear that it was a profitable opportunity did the RIAA set its sights on the peer-to-peer file sharing, looking for its piece of the pie.

Any doubt to the contrary was erased by recent comments from RIAA Chairman/CEO Mitch Bainwol, who said, "A legal marketplace that barely existed in 2003 is now a billion-dollar business showing real promise."

"Fans have a far better understanding of the right and wrong ways to enjoy music," said Bainwol. "No matter how much we adapt, though, any new business model must always necessarily rely upon a respect for property rights. That's why we must continue to enforce our rights."

It's evident the RIAA thinks the only "right" way for fans to enjoy music is by continuing to fill their already fat pockets.

As for the whole "enforcing rights" issue, it's obvious their recent actions are motivated by money. Their decision to send pre-litigation letters to 50 Ohio State University students for allegedly illegally downloading music made that clear.

The association has given the 50 students a choice of either paying a standard settlement of about $3,000 each or facing lawsuits that could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The RIAA has sued more than 18,000 individuals since 2003, including students from more than 130 universities, and according to their spokesperson Jenni Engebretsen, every case has been settled out of court.

It doesn't take a mathematician to realize they're raking in money at the expense of college students, a majority of who are already financially strapped.

Remember though, they care about us and are doing this to show us the difference between right and wrong, which brings forth the question of whether or not students will still have to pay the settlement if they change their ways.

Always willing to help, their P2PLawsuits.com Web site once again gives us an answer, "Yes. The settlements are designed to recoup a very small piece of the massive damage inflicted on the music community as a result of piracy."

Don't be fooled by their propaganda about protecting artists or teaching consumers life lessons, for the RIAA, it's all about the money.

We want to hear what you think!

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com - Letters should be no longer than 300 words, must include your name, a subject line of "Letters to the Editor" and are subject to editing.

'RIAA'

continued from page 1

has experienced a sea change compared to three years ago," said Mitch Bainwol, Chairman and CEO of the RIAA. "A legal marketplace that barely existed in 2003 is now a billion dollar business showing real promise. Many rogue sites have gone under and fans have a far better understanding of the right and wrong ways to enjoy music. No matter how much we adapt, though, any new business model must always necessarily rely upon a respect for property rights. That's why we must continue to enforce our rights."

Cary Sherman, President of the RIAA, said, "We hope that university administrators recognize the beneficial role they will play here by helping avert a lawsuit against a student, but better yet, by demonstrating the leadership that helps teach students right from wrong and by implementing the technological tools that prevent piracy from happening in the first place."

Mike West, a cyber-nanny, thinks the association is taking the wrong approach. "The RIAA should go after the people who are putting the programs online," said West. "If a service is being provided, it's not our fault if we have access to that. Most of these students don't have money anyway for a lawsuit."

ASU President Narine Jugharyan issued a statement regarding the letters. "We have not received any letter from RIAA," she wrote. "I have seen no student downloading music illegally. I think as anything else shouldn't be done illegally, in this case music shouldn't be downloaded illegally either."

When asked about ASU's reaction if they were to receive a letter, Jugharyan replied in a statement that a full vote of the board would be required for a decision and she could not ascertain that decision prior to its passing.

In order to circumvent this new wave of litigation, a system of college-only multimedia sharing was created to provide legal means to download music.

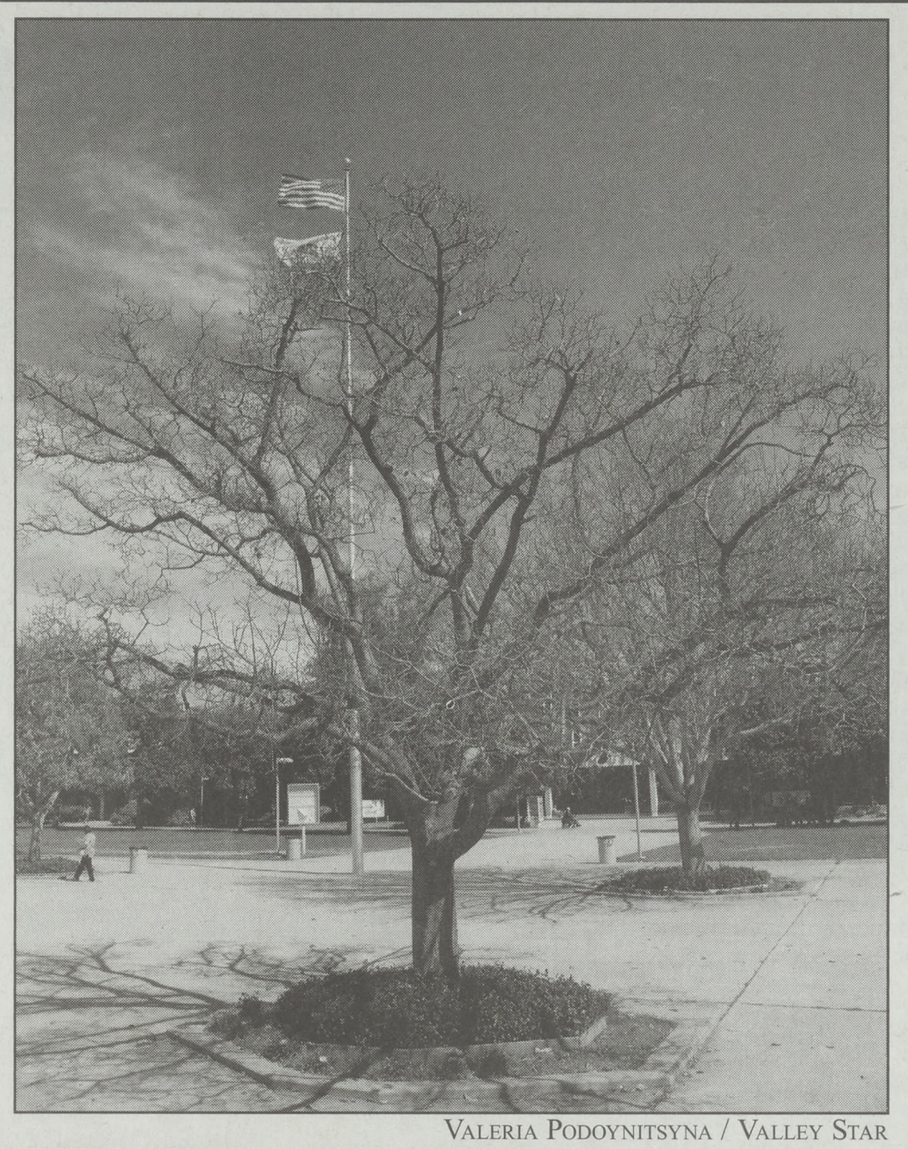
Ruckus Network Inc. has moved to an advertising-supported business model a year ago, eliminating music downloading subscription fees charged to students or to academic institutions. The Ruckus service has also expanded 14-fold, making it one of the fastest growing member-based communities on the Internet.

"Ruckus continues to build a rapidly-expanding community of college students who share tastes and interests as they engage with one of the largest legitimate catalogs of online music today," said Mike Bebel, CEO of Ruckus Network, Inc. "Our community shapes the experience at Ruckus and we appreciate and encourage their involvement."

While Ruckus hasn't taken hold at Valley just yet, other college students view it as a godsend.

"I think Ruckus is really useful for college students like myself because I take my laptop everywhere on-campus and anytime I want to hear more music from an artist that's been recommended to me by a friend, I can download as many albums as I want off of the site," said Julie Dwyer, an undergraduate student at the University of Southern California (USC). "With Ruckus, everything downloads and licenses immediately so I can listen to 10-15 new tracks for free within minutes. It's fast, easy, and there is so much good music - both mainstream and indie."

On Jan. 22, 2007 Ruckus became available for free to any college student with a valid .edu e-mail account. Since that time, students at more than 700 schools nationwide have joined the Ruckus community. In addition, record numbers of new members continue to join Ruckus with this effort fueled by a powerfully viral word-of-mouth campaign conducted by existing Ruckus members.



VALERIA PODOYNITSYNA / VALLEY STAR

CENTER OF ATTENTION- A tree shades Valley College's Monarch Square and will soon be joined by others as a part of Revitalizing Valley's efforts to make the campus more beautiful.

'MTA'

continued from page 1

-press the time [from when] the training ends to when they get hired ... because what we do is we graduate you and then we tell you to go take your DMV test. Well, people get scared," said Ciufo. "These people are 40 years old and [they] don't have a job and [they] go take a test. Some people just don't go."

He continued, "What we do in our training is we build confidence, we build camaraderie, and we build consistency."

Currently, the Bridge Program only trains bus operators, but there are plans to expand the training into other areas like mechanics. Another class will be held in April for veterans that could lead to supervisory positions.

Last month Ciufo, Valley President Tyree Wieder and many others attended an MTA board meeting with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. The mayor commended the program for working with the business community to provide job services to students.

"I agree with the mayor that this is exactly what community colleges do best, which is meet the needs... of our local employers," Wieder said. "They have a particular need. We're able to work with them to fulfill that need and in the process assist our students in getting the kind of job training they need to go to work."

'Press'

continued from page 1

the student crew while working on the long process of putting the film together.

"We had a wide group of knowledge and temperaments," said Dell'Anno, the picture editor/cinematographer. "Sometimes nerves got a little raw and team members had to come help calm things down."

The students are in agreement that they want the film to raise a new awareness, not only of activism but also of the value of the Valley media arts program.

The film itself has been entered in many film festivals and won several awards, the most recent being the 2006 Accolade Award in the feature documentary category. The achievement is made all the more special since the movie is entered as a professional work and not a student project, meaning that Valley students were up against big names like NBC and other major companies.

The next stop for the documentary is the Newport Beach Film Festival, but the not-for-profit film is ready to spread the words and pictures of peace and free speech to Valley and maybe cause a revolution of its own.

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'FAFSA'

continued from page 1

zenship and can be filled out either on paper or online.

Ralston recommends the online version since it has a quicker turnaround time and immediately notifies the applicants of any errors. Students who fill out the paper form have to wait up to six weeks to find out if they are eligible, while the online version has results within a week of submission.

Upon completing the FAFSA, students must then wait to find out their status and once it's decided they qualify, they are awarded money depending on their specific financial needs.

Money is awarded for every academic school year in different increments and students have up to four years of eligibility depending on their educational goals. Although the first priority deadline for the 2007-2008 academic year has passed, hopefuls have until June to apply. Ralston advises that they do so as soon as possible.

"The earlier the better," said Ralston. "Files are reviewed in date order so the earlier an applicant applies and completes [their] file, the sooner [they] will receive a response."

The financial aid office is located in a blue bungalow on the south end of the Valley campus and conducts regular workshops in different languages helping students with aid-related questions. They also have a PC lab where students can learn how to apply for a US Department of Education PIN and fill out the FAFSA. For more information visit www.enterwebsitehere.com or call the financial aid office at 818-947-2412.

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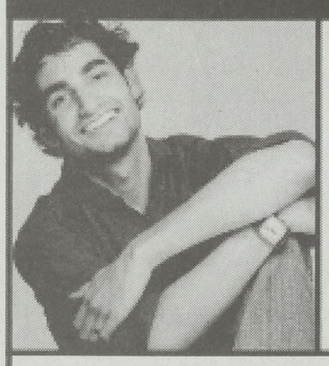

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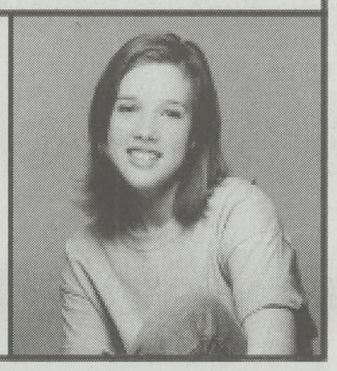

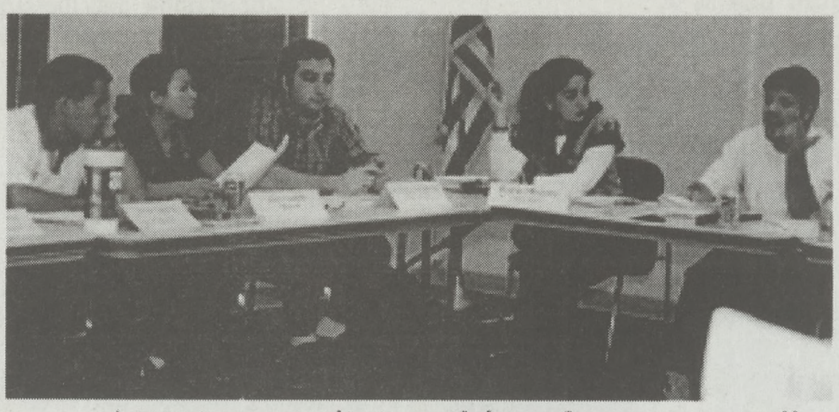

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2007-2008
ASU (Associated Student Union)
ELECTIONS

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Commissioner of Student and Social
Commissioner of Political Affairs
Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural
Commissioner of Campus and Environmental
Commissioner of Evening Division
Commissioner of Fine Arts

The deadline for applications is March 23 at 4:00 pm in CC 102.

Pick up an application in the ASU office located at CC102 or at http://www.lavc.edu/StudentServWebsite/ASU/index.html

Please see the reverse page for job descriptions.

ASU Elections -- April 17 and 18 -- Monarch Square

LAVC
ASU Working For You

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, March 14

Administration of Justice Club Meeting @ Valley Foreign Language Room 102; 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 15

Child Development Club Meeting @ Math Science Room 114; 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

M.E.Ch.A Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 111; 2:30 p.m.

LAVC Jazz Ensemble @ Music Band Room 112; 11:30 a.m.; Free

Monday, March 19

Common Grammar Pitfalls Workshop @ Valley Writing Center; 4 - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20

How to Fix Run-On Sentences Workshop @ Valley Writing Center; 1 - 2 p.m.

Veterans' Club Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 108; 1 - 2 p.m.

M.E.Ch.A Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 111; 2:30 p.m

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, March 14

How to Transfer Workshop
1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, March 15

Undecided Major/ Career Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday, March 16

CSU Northridge Bus Trip
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, March 19

How to Transfer Workshop
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20

UC Los Angeles Rep.
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CSU Northridge Rep.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

Undecided Major/ Career Workshop
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 21

CSU Los Angeles Rep.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UC Santa Barbara Rep.
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For further information and to sign-up for activities, contact the Career/ Transfer Center in Adm. 126 or at (818) 947-2646.

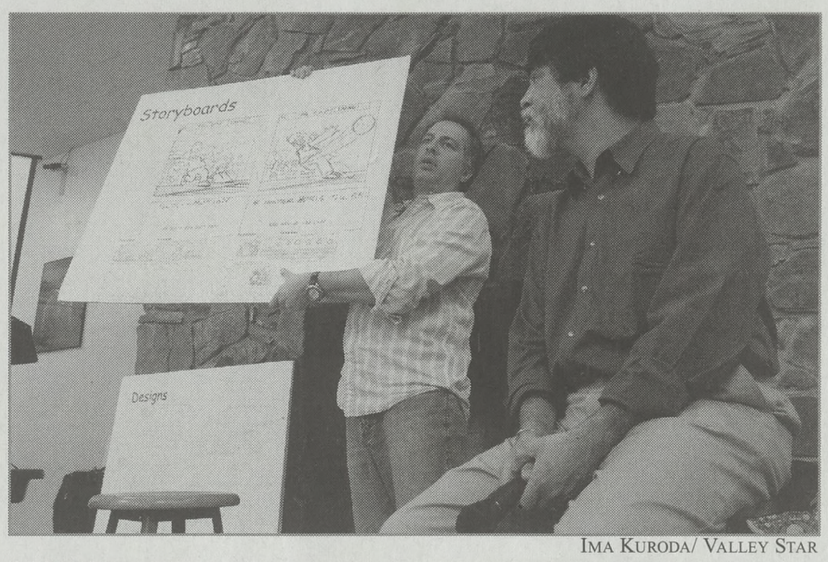
"The Simpsons" Come to Valley

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

The Fireside Room in Monarch Hall was transformed into Springfield last Friday as the Media Arts Student Committee and the Institute for Developing Entertainment Arts & Studies (IDEAS) presented Valley College students with "An Evening with 'The Simpsons.'"

Eager students packed the venue for the chance to ask one of the show's producers and one of its music editors questions, as well as to hear all about what goes into making the animated series the huge hit it has become.

Rick Polizzi, a two-time Emmy Award-winning animation producer on the show, took students through the step-by-step process of how a 22-episode season gets finished and how sometimes when sending animation to Korea, things can get lost in translation.



IMA KURODA/ VALLEY STAR

STORYTELLERS - "Simpsons" producer Rick Polizzi (left), talks about a storyboard from the show while music editor Chris Ledesma (right), listens at a town hall meeting Friday night.

The audience was out of control with laughter when Polizzi showed a clip of Marge accepting a hotel bill and claiming she never ordered a "blow job." Voice actress Julie Kavner was just fooling around, but the Korean animators saw nothing wrong with the statement. The animation obviously had to be rushed back and redone before the show could air.

Polizzi's advice to aspiring animators is simple.

"I hate saying keep trying, because everyone says that," said Polizzi. "But I think interning is a great way to get your foot in the door."

Chris Ledesma, a music editor who has edited music for every episode of "The Simpsons," discussed the tight schedule he and the music team are on with every episode. He also showed a rough cut of an episode before it is sent to Korea with just a bare music track and compared it a completed episode.

"It was great, and nice to see such a large turnout," said Ledesma on his impressions of the event. "It was well-attended and well-hosted."

The crowd was never at a loss for questions for the duo and the audience really wanted to know about the new "Simpsons" movie. However, both men were pretty tight lipped about what to expect from the feature film other than the fact that it won't be just four episodes strung together.

The reaction from almost everyone involved was overwhelmingly positive.

"I am really thrilled, it went really smoothly," said IDEAS Director Richard Holdredge. "I could not have imagined a better outcome."

And the students who attended were very enthused. Many loved seeing the rough cuts and bloopers from the show.

"I loved it," said student Brent Bailey. "We got to see a lot of things that most people don't get to see."

After the event students lingered to ask questions one-on-one, with some even getting a shot to possibly take an art test for the show.

Polizzi is excited to help students and give them a chance at success.

"If there is anything I can offer to people starting out I am all for it," said Polizzi. "I know I was in the same boat and if you can get advice it makes the road less bumpy."

Valley Orchestra Celebrates Russian Composers

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Valley Symphony Orchestra enchanted concert-goers Saturday evening with "The Russians Have Landed."

The orchestra, which is made up of a mixture of students, community members and professional musicians, played "Overture solonnelle" and Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in A Minor." by Alexander Glazunov and Peter Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." for an audience of about 50 people.

Conductor and Valley College music professor Dr. Robert Chauls described Tchaikovsky's composition as "very well-known to American audiences."

The Glazunov piece featured a violin solo by Sharon Cooper, the concertmaster of the Valley Symphony Orchestra.

When asked why the concert focused on Russian music, Chauls said, "I wanted to give [the violinist] the opportunity to play a concerto and I said, 'You can play any one you want' and she chose the Glazunov . . . so we made the whole first half Glazunov and, who was Glazunov mostly influenced by Tchaikovsky."

The concert was well-received by those in attendance with Cooper receiving numerous bouquets when she finished her solo.

"The soloist did a wonderful job on an extremely difficult piece," said Robert David Hall, the husband of one of the orchestra's cello players. "Russian music has a very definite feel to it and I felt this was well done."

There are many concerts throughout the school year at the Main Stage Theater. The next concert will be the annual Chamber Music Concert featuring music by composers including Bach and Gershwin. It will take place March 25 at 5:00 p.m.

"More people need to take advantage of this," said Hall. "It's amazing to have such a good symphony in our own backyard."

VALERIA PODOYNITSYNA/ VALLEY STAR

"THE RUSSIANS HAVE LANDED" - Two cellists play music by Glazunov and Tchaikovsky with the Valley Symphony Orchestra Friday evening.

MOVIE REVIEW

"300" is the Real Deal

BY JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

The Battle of Thermopylae was a great story long before Frank Miller added his genius stroke. Beautifully shot with the proper amount of ambience and impact, "300" turns a great story into an undeniable epic.

Faithfully adapted from the graphic novel, Miller tells the story of 300 Spartans fighting against one million of King Xerxes' best soldiers.

The concepts of honor and pride are standard when it comes to the gladiator/epic genre, but Miller and director Zack Snyder deftly take those clichés and turn them into something refreshingly original.

Snyder and fellow writer Kurt Johnstad did a first- rate job penning a script that is equal in concept as it is in brutality. By emphasizing a love of country in its defense rather than world conquest, the Spartans are given a layer of character instead of the globe-trotting, hackneyed stereotypes permeating films like "Troy" and "Alexander."

The importance of women in this film shows an enlightened view. Instead of solely being objects of lust as in most epics, women are as important as Sparta considering "Spartan women give birth to real Spartan men." These two ideas make you believe in the Spartans as humans, not just warriors.

Channeling Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," Gerard Butler gives a charismatic and passionate performance as Leonidas of Sparta. His sense of urgency makes you believe that this one battle is everything his whole life has been waiting for. The dialogue at times might seem banal if transferred to another film, but Butler's cadence and timing compensates for that and makes you believe that the bloodshed is necessary.

Vincent Regan's role as Captain Artemis is almost as essential as Butler's. Artemis represents the archetype of what every Spartan man should be: strong, disciplined and willing to sacrifice anything in the name of Sparta. But when that sacrifice is made, Regan's bravura shows the permanence and horror that is war. His transformation into a sullen, brooding and grief stricken father goes to the heights Russell Crowe could have only dreamed of in "Gladiator."

King Xerxes may be the main antagonist but the shrewd Spartan councilman, Theron, upstages the King-God. Adding the proper amount of sleaze and deception, Dominic West's display of prevarication is worthy of the audience's contempt.

Snyder does an excellent job of blending the extremely rich atmospherics that give homage to the graphic novel while displaying a sense of surrealism. Combined with lush shots of wheat fields with poetic yet brutal fight scenes, "300" walks the line between harsh reality and the phantasmagoric.

The concepts of honor and pride are standard when it comes to the gladiator/ epic, but Miller and director Zack Snyder deftly take those clichés and turn them into something refreshingly original.

Casual fans will soon recognize that Frank Miller's reach goes well beyond the sex and violence noir that is "Sin City." Miller's uncanny talent to add depth and understanding to unsavory or one-dimensional characters is what makes him a true artist.

At the end of "300," you will feel as if you were witness to something tragic, yet redeeming and above all powerful. Kirk Douglas may have said, "I am Spartacus." After watching "300" you'll agree that, "This is Sparta."

For more "300" coverage, visit LAValleyStar.com

Not All Movies Made Equal

BY JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Although movie fans and critics alike ridicule sequels and remakes, people still line up to see them. With the lack of new creative movies out right now, people are willing to settle for something that was remotely interesting the first time.

In 2006, six of the ten highest grossing films were sequels or a reboot ("Ice Age: The meltdown," "Casino Royale," "X-Men: The Last Stand," "Mission Impossible 3," "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," "Superman Returns")

All movie sequels, series and remakes aren't created equal. There are two main styles: rebooting and reimagining.

Rebooting is a dedication to making a film unique and stands on its own merits while reimagining gives retread films a second chance to darken the silver screen.

Rebooting, in terms of movies and comics, allows the director to discard all previous storylines and completely start over. Film companies see it as a way to jumpstart a viable film franchise because it spurs interest in the film with a new design, a new director and actor speculation.

Recent rebooted films have eclipsed their predecessors in ticket sales. "Batman Begins" out sold all other "Batman" films except the original and "Casino Royale" is the highest grossing Bond film of all time. More importantly, these films have better writers and actors than their predecessors.

Following the much-maligned release of "Batman and Robin," Warner Bros. suspended the franchise, but in 2003 Warner Bros. approached Christopher Nolan ("Memento," "The Prestige") and David S. Goyer ("The Crow," "Blade") to pen a reboot of the "Batman" franchise. A new emphasis was placed on the origins of Batman and his alter- ego Bruce Wayne.

"Batman Begins" received a terrific response from fans and critics and was the eighth highest grossing film of 2005. Nolan is currently in pre-production for "The Dark Knight," the sequel to "Batman Begins".

"Casino Royale," the first novel by Ian Flemming that starred James Bond, was the ideal story for a reboot of the 007 films. "Royale" marks a return to a more character-driven storyline.

Fans initially felt Daniel Craig wasn't the ideal Bond because of petty issues such as his blonde hair and 5-foot-11-inch frame. However, his performance brought an edge to the character that hasn't been seen since Sean Connery first took the role in 1962. Craig changed Bond from a suave ladies' man into a killing machine.

While high tech gadgetry is a staple of the Bond franchise, they aren't at the forefront as much as they were in lagging Bond films like "Tomorrow Never Dies" and "Die Another Day". "Royale" went on to become the fourth highest grossing film of 2006 and Craig received considerable praise for his performance and many critics cite him as potentially the best Bond.

Films like "The Amityville Horror", "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "House of Wax" are anathemas to the original films and to the horror genre. These films focus less on the thriller aspect of the original, which made the films horrific in the first place, and more on high pitched squeals and gore.

Rebooting or reimagining – as trivial as it may seem, the distinction is necessary. Rebooting is stripping the film to its core and building from the ground up. Reimagining is adding a thin layer of gloss to an otherwise shoddy product. This new era of revisionist Hollywood should be welcomed as a changing of the guard, but should also be viewed as buyer beware.

LAVC SCORES

Baseball vs. Pierce

(L 14-8)

Baseball Record: 10-11, 2-3

Softball vs. Mission

(W 10-1)

Softball Record: 11-8, 7-2, 2-0

Baseball vs. Pierce

(W 9-6)

Baseball Record: 11-11, 2-3

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/14/07

No Games Scheduled

Thursday 3/15/07

Baseball @ Glendale 2 p.m.

Softball Bye Week

Friday 3/16/07

Swimming and Diving Bye Week

Saturday 3/17/07

Baseball vs. Bakersfield 2 p.m.

Track and Field @ CSUN 9 a.m.

Sunday 3/18/07

No Games Scheduled

Monday 3/19/07

No Games Scheduled

Tuesday 3/20/07

Baseball @ Bakersfield 2 p.m.

Softball @ Citrus 2:30 p.m.

Track and Field @ Cerritos TBA

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FOOTBALL

Sims Helps Players Succeed in the Game of Life

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

POWER POINT - Head Football Coach Jimmy Sims makes a point to his team during a weight-lifting session.

BY PAUL OLDEN
STAFF WRITER

Football is serious business even in March., but life is serious business too.

It's the job of Valley College Head Coach Jimmy Sims, who came to the school five years ago, to drive home both points to his football team during spring conditioning drills on campus.

Sims, was a zoology major at Azuza-Pacific University and had an eye on a career in medicine--45, has a 4-16 record as head coach of the Monarchs. He was an assistant head coach under Ron Posiano his first three years

Solidly built and thickly muscled, Sims often wears glasses, has the appearance of a man who'd be as comfortable at a power-lifter's convention as he is on a football field.

And he sounds—with his sharp, clear voice--like a man who doesn't suffer corner-cutters easily.

He's trying to lay a fresh foundation for this year's team after going 2 and 8 last season.

"It took us a little while to create some team unity," Sims said. "We had a tough time as a staff trying to discipline, trying to get [the players] to come together, to care about each other."

Sims also has to deal with an ever-changing roster of players due to the fact that many players' family obligations forced them to choose between playing football and getting a job to help ease family financial pressures.

"I would say that at least 90 percent of our young men who ended up quitting the team or dropping out came to me and said, 'I can't do this because I gotta help my mom,'" Sims said.

But it's a new year and some players are already talking about accomplishing big things this season.

"It's a stepping stone to a championship," said free safety Noah Stangby, about the time being spent on conditioning and fundamentals between now and September.

The South gym houses the weight room—ground zero for any football team's pre-season preparation— and while the players are busy going about their work, the range of Sims' varying emotions are put to the test.

He was happy to see the easy mix of camaraderie and competition as various players pushed hundreds of pounds of iron in the air.

Sims was less impressed when he noticed a player wearing headphones during the weight-lifting session and in the process, tuning out both his teammates and his coach.

"It took us a little while to create some team unity... We had a tough time as a staff trying to get [the players] to come together, to care about each other."
- Coach Jimmy Sims

But his tolerance needle was pushed into the danger zone when he heard some of his black and white players use racially charged street language during the weight lifting session.

While the language was coarse, it was said not to insult the players, but to encourage and congratulate teammates who were straining to complete their bench presses.

Wide receiver Phillipe Micheau says he understands Sims' desire for his players to keep the language clean during team activities.

"Coach is trying to change the way we act," Micheau said. "He wants us to have respect and be gentlemen."

Sims is matter-of-fact on the subject of race matters as it pertains to his team.

"Most of my players are African American and Hispanic," said Sims. "We have some Caucasians … and in today's society we [the blacks and Hispanics] have [some] problems with each other.

"In order to create a kind of team spirit and team concept, there has to be unity. But by using slang street words towards each other… that creates animosity. It creates anger and I try to diffuse that."

Sims continued, "In the weight room it seems as if it's OK to say those things but because of immaturity, they'll carry it onto the field. And from the field they'll carry it into the classroom and from the classroom; they'll carry onto the streets. I will let them know that kind of language is unacceptable."

During another instructive moment, Sims asked the 50 to 60 players in the room how many of them want to play football at a four-year college. More than half of the players raised their hands.

But Sims says that while maybe 15 of his players might have a shot at professional football, getting the chance to play at a higher level hinges on performing well in the classroom.

"The importance and realization of that fact doesn't hit home until their final semester when they start looking at their grades. I talk about it all the time."

But for now, with most of the players hitting the books in study hall, the future on the field looks promising for the Monarchs

A renovated stadium with its like-new Sporturf field could play a big role in the recruiting process. When the fresh faces start showing up on campus this season along with returning players, they'll find a head coach who says his approach to handling his team and his coaching staff will be different.

"You can't do everything on your own," Sims said. "So you must delegate."

Regardless of his approach, like teams in any sport, Sims hopes he has the talent to turn around a losing season.

He's counting on former Ulysses S. Grant High School running back Anthony Dixon. Sims is also looking for leadership and results from center Eduardo Felix, linebackers Sione Fale'ofa, Phillip Garrett and Faatali Chou'lee who Sims says will anchor the defensive line.

For now, Sims has to be content with building a winning atmosphere in the weight room and twice a week on the field.

Time is on his side. The regular season starts in September.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Garcia Proves Sense of Humor Belongs in Baseball

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

STIKE A POSE - Los Angeles Valley College catcher Mitch Garcia

In his first season with the Monarchs, freshman catcher Mitch Garcia has not gotten much playing time, but his presence on the team has certainly been felt.

Garcia is known on his team for two things: being from a small town called Grants Pass in southern Oregon and his Chris Farley impression.

"He's real witty," said Coach Dave Mallas. "He comes up with lines throughout games and practices. He's very spontaneous and has a lot of fun with it … It's always nice to have someone to keep the team loose in tight games."

Standing six feet tall and weighing 220 pounds, Garcia looks imposing at first, but as soon as he smiles his face transforms into that of a little boy's with chubby cheeks, an impish grin and slightly mussed hair.

This self-described small town boy grew up far away from the big city, only moving to Los Angeles in August 2006, and jokingly reminisces about socializing around the local Wal-Mart.

Coming from a town that only recently reached 30,000 people, Garcia is more than a little star struck living in Los Angeles where celebrity spotting is just a part of life.

"It's definitely a big step up … I've met a lot of celebrities already, that's a big difference," said Garcia. "We had a pro [Jeff Suppan] come to our practice and work out with us, that was a big change. The guy won the World Series as a pitcher [and] came out and practiced with our baseball team. That never happened in Oregon."

Despite going through such a large transition, Garcia loves Los Angeles and has made many friends on the team, using his sense of humor and outgoing nature to create a positive atmosphere.

"Mitch is one of the nicest guys I've met in a long time and a really good friend," said teammate and friend Leandro Dottavio. "I haven't met someone who doesn't like the guy. My family likes him. My girlfriend likes him. He's really, really funny. He cheers me up all the time."

So far this season Garcia hasn't been able to get on the field at his natural catcher position since there are already two sophomore catchers on the team, but Coach Mallas says he plans to use him more next year.

The left-handed Garcia gets most of his playing time as a designated hitter, with a .176 batting average with 17 at bats this season. According to Mallas, he is a gap-to-gap hitter, which means that he hits the ball into play a lot but does not hit home runs often.

In his spare time, he often works on his hitting. Dottavio says that he and Garcia go to the batting cages every Sunday. Garcia has not decided on a major but hopes to go into dentistry.

Though Garcia may not be a star player on the field, Mallas says that he is a valuable part of the team because of his hard work and positive attitude.

"He has done very well and has established some great friendships that he will have not only on the team, but for the rest of his life," Mallas said.

BASEBALL

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

COMING UP FOR AIR - Valley College 3rd baseman Thomas Cassidy dives for a ground ball in the fifth inning of the Monarch's home game with Pierce College Thursday, March 8th.

"Pride" Powers Past Pierce

BY GRANT BOWMAN
STAFF WRITER

"1… 2… 3… PRIDE," yells the Valley College baseball team after a 9-6 victory over Pierce College on Saturday. This is the first time Valley has beaten Pierce since 2005 as they went 0-4 in 2006 and were 0-1 in 2007 against their hated rivals. The aura after the game was just that, pride as the Monarchs came together as a team to defeat the 14-10 Brahma Bulls.

"This is a big win for us," said head coach Dave Mallas, "We put ourselves in a hole early, but it showed a lot of character to come back and win this game." Valley is now 3-3 in Western State Conference South play and 11-11 on the season.

The Monarchs starting pitcher Ivan Gonzalez started the first inning giving up three runs while hitting two batters and walking another. The early 3-0 deficit didn't hold the Monarchs down as they scored one run in the second inning as left fielder Julian Gestewitz scored on a ground out by Leandro Dottavio.

The Monarchs put up six runs in the fourth inning, five runs with two outs. Dottavio, Johnhenry Jacobs, Steve Vranau, Angel Nunez, JP Hollywood and Justin Kaid all scored in the fourth inning. Every player in the Monarch line-up got at least one hit in the game.

"It felt like we had taken control of the game," said Gestewitz, "We had all the momentum on our side."

Garrett Shimmamoto drove in the sixth run of the inning, hitting a single to right field to drive in Kaid. "The momentum defiantly shifted in our favor after that inning," said Team Captain Shimmamoto. "I was pumped to get a chance to hit, and just wanted to hit [the ball] in a gap."

Valley added one more run in the eighth as Steven Vranau scored, and one run in the ninth as Larry Panko scored, pinch-running for Jacobs.

Gonzalez settled down and only allowed one more run over the next five innings. He went six strong innings and gave up four runs. Max Limonick, Jacobs, and Drew Vassil combined to pitch the final three innings to preserve a 9-6 victory over the Brahma Bulls.

This is a big win for the Monarch's as it gives them tremendous momentum right in the middle of conference.

The Monarchs played host to the Brahma Bulls last Thursday but lost 14-8. The Monarchs attempted a late comeback, scoring four runs in the ninth inning but that wasn't nearly enough as Pierce out-hit, and out-pitched the Monarchs.